

Minutes: Mendon Township Regular Board Meeting
Date: July 7, 2026
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Mendon Township Hall

Attending: Supervisor Kline
Jim Hart - Trustee
Jan Griffith- Treasurer
Leasa G. Mathews – Trustee
Donna Cupp – Clerk

Also in attendance: Attorney Jacob Porter with Haas Caywood Law Office

Supervisor Kline called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Kline announced that he had a brief message; First of all, if I felt a little blindsided last meeting, I stand here to apologize to anyone I owe an apology to. The only thing I knew was going on up there was soil borings. As the Township Supervisor, my top priority is protecting our community's agricultural heritage, property values and rule of character. With recent shifts in Michigan's Green Energy Laws under PA233, local control over large scale solar developments faces unprecedented challenges. To ensure our township is not caught off guard, I'm exploring a temporary Moratorium on solar developments. This pause is not a rejection of renewable energy. Rather, it is a vital time bound tool that grants our Planning Commission a necessary runway to study, update and strengthen our zoning ordinances. Our goal is to craft legally resilient, compatible frame work that addresses noise, setbacks, decommissioning projects and battery storage. We must ensure that any future developments happen on Mendon's terms and not the States. I just wanted to make that statement to you. Thank you.

Clerk Cupp: Before we begin, I would just like to say the meeting a month ago someone put my picture all over social media sites (Facebook) from the recording from Ms. Burpee and I am here to tell you that I did not give you permission to do that. Black my face out or whatever you need to do. I am not giving you permission to do that again. Okay? (I received no answer from Ms. Burpee, who was present at today's meeting)
Supervisor Kline: Ditto

The agenda was submitted for consideration. A motion was made by Hart, supported by Mathews to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried

Public Comments:

Five (5) people signed in for public comment

1. Gina Everson and Shellie Snyder of Mendon Township
2. Robin Burpee of Park Township
3. Jackie Bell of Brady Township

4. Norma Switalski of Nottawa Township

Gina Everson: First, I want to thank the Mendon Township board for your service. I know these positions are not easy, especially when things become emotional. I know you are bound by law and process and you can only do certain things with the authority you have. I'm here tonight as a homeowner and a neighbor. For me and some of my neighbors these are real conversations in our homes. Do we want solar panels looking out our windows? What happens to our property? What happens to our wild life, drainage, and the value of our land? From what I have learned so far, and information that has been shared with me, the land connected to the BESS sight and solar related easements may be close to three thousand (3000) acres and possibly more. The possibility of that much farm land being involved, is enough to slow down and take a careful look. I understand Mendon Township already has a solar ordinance. My request is that the township review whether or not their ordinance is strong and protective enough for the scale of what may be coming. I'm also submitting a neighbor packet tonight that explains these concerns in more detail and ask for clear information, independent review and meaningful protections for the affected property owners. Tonight, I am asking the Township Board to consider a temporary pause, or a moratorium and to refer the solar ordinance and battery storage protections to the planning commission for review. I know people are upset. I'm upset too. I don't want this to become neighbor against neighbor, or residents against the township. Public records, questions and accountability all matter. We also need to use information that leads us towards something helpful. I hope we can stay united around what matters most. Protecting adjoining homeowners and the community. Getting complete and accurate information, and making sure decisions are made before strong protections are in place. We need good information, independent reviews and we need to preserve local control where we can and work together. Thank you.

Shellie Snyder: I basically repeating what Gina said. Thank you for saying you are sorry for last time. I appreciate that, and I am also. We do support Gina. We are so thankful what Gina has done for this. We as land owners are not getting anything for this and our property values are going to go down. We are hoping that you can support us and find a way to stop this, or at least slow it down so we can get good information. Supervisor Kline; Me too. Thanks Shellie.

Robin Burpee: Good evening board members. I'm Robin Burpee. I am currently submitting a notice of Open meetings act and Statutory Public Notice violations regarding your June 2 meeting, along side a comprehensive ?? request. I request physical copies of all documents be permanently attached to tonight's meeting minutes, including this ???? Please be advised that I have alerted the St. Joseph County prosecutor's office and a formal investigation has been opened by the Michigan State police regarding your procedural violations. At that June 2nd meeting, multiple severe statutory errors occurred. Your Truth and Taxation notice provided only five (5) days of notice instead of the legally required six (6). Furthermore, you failed to formally open, close or pause your public testimony during the statutory tax hearing before voting. This occurred with this board's chosen township attorney present, who chose not to intervene in the public's best interest. Additionally, you selectively silenced public comments based on your anti-solar viewpoints, which is completely illegal. Your admin(?) has proved that you purposely

withheld my last physical statement from the published packet, as requested to fight public decent ?? Because you voted on millage rates during an unlawful session, the vote is legally invalid. The law requires this board to void the June 2nd vote, amend the draft minutes from that meeting, re notice a new hearing and have a lawful six (6) day window and allow the public an equal opportunity to speak. Furthermore, I am handing the Clerk a comprehensive FOIA request, pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, section 15.234, subsection 4, Mendon Township fails to publish its mandatory FOIA procedures on its website, you are legally forbidden to charge any fees or deposits. Per the statute, your business deadline to provide these records starts tomorrow morning and needs to provide these documents digitally, and free of charge. I'm handing over these documents and receipt over to the clerk. Supervisor Kline: Robin. You have done work in our house Robin: I have. Supervisor Kline: And you did a really nice job, and you were reasonable with your pricing and everything. Robin: Thank you. Supervisor Kline: I consider you an honest person. Robin: Absolutely. Supervisor Kline: So, I am going to ask you an honest question. Robin: Absolutely. Supervisor Kline: Are you getting paid for this? Robin: No sir, I'm a neighbor. Just like if I drove by Gina's house and I saw it on fire, I would call 911. I'm doing this because I have a heart (?) for Mendon. I've lived here for forty-six (46) years. Even though I'm not a Mendon Township resident, things that happen in Mendon Township affect me personally. Supervisor Kline: Okay, thank you Robin. Robin: Yep, thank you.

Jackie: Okay, well, since you guys aren't going to ???????, if you ordered signs from Denise, I have them. After the meeting, meet me in the parking lot? Thank you. Supervisor Kline: That's it Jackie?

Norma: Thank you, Mike, and Thank you Gina. I have two things tonight. First my sources say dozens of rural Michigan counties and townships are not giving up their fight against rural allowing developers of large wind and solar projects to pass and skip local approval. Considering the feelings of people here, has this board participated in any of this? If not, would you consider it? On June 18th a collection of 79 townships asked the Michigan Supreme Court to way in on the issue. Supervisor Kline: I was aware of that Norma. Some conversations need to happen. I personally am going to try and find some of those 79, I thought it was over 80, to see if the MPSC has stepped in yet and did away with the moratoriums. Norma: I so appreciate your attitude with working with us now. My second issue. There's a homeless man living on the property owned by Arnie and Norma Switalski and Wayne and Sandy Wilds, in Mendon Township. He has a compound set up on our property on Simpson Rd. He has been there since Spring and seems to have zero intention of moving on because people of the community are supporting him. Is he homeless because of bad choices, while he continues to make bad choices in our community? My granddaughter can no longer go to the barn to get her horses alone. Our family had a walking trail there that we can no longer use. My sister's backyard pool is no longer private. Drew and Amy Cupp have small children. David and Sarah are home alone. Because the work done by our family, this property is designated as a Michigan natural beauty road. It's used by many people in Mendon Township for biking, walking, running. The people using this road do not know there's a stranger there. The situation needs to be dealt with and we don't know what to do. There are people facilitating his stay in Mendon. They think they are being kind, but he is not on their property and affecting their neighborhood. If you will let me approach you, I have a picture of his house. Supervisor Kline: Absolutely. Have you contacted the police about this. Norma:

Yes, we met Sgt. Ken, Ginny and I met him out there last week. He was very supportive. He put a little note on the man's tent, telling he must leave. And he hasn't left. I think the problem is, every time you go there, he hides. The police will not deal with him unless we are there or they see him. So, how do you accomplish that??

Supervisor Kline: I don't know. We have that problem all over Consumers. They camp out in our gravel pit and concrete plants. Norma: The board needs to be aware of this. I don't know if you were aware of this? Supervisor Kline: No, I was not aware of this.

Jan: Do you see him out and about during the day at times? Some man said, he's there all the time. He should be removed. Clerk Cupp: Is there anything the Township can do about that?? Mike Haydon, do you have anything you can say about that? Mike Haydon: I'm your code enforcement officer. Had someone notified me he was living out there, I would have gone to the property and told him he needed to be removed. The Sheriff's department is correct. They have to see him there in order to trespass him there. If there is stuff on your land, there's nothing that says you can throw it away. Norma: Well, that was suggested to us. Mike Haydon: You would want the police there so he can't harm you. If the police won't do it, I will. I will get your information before I leave. Norma: Thank you.

(Public comments were heard by the board per the policy that was adopted on February 13, 2018 by the Mendon Township Board.)

Supervisor Kline to Jacob Porter – Haas/Caywood.

I would like you to address the Township Solar ordinance VS the State Statue

Jacob: So, as it stands, the Mendon township ordinance is not a compatible renewable energy ordinance under the state statue, so, essentially what that means is the state law has primed your ordinance and any renewable facility can come in and get certification directly through MPSC. There are numerous incompatibilities with the ordinance. The state statue creates a ceiling where is the township would like to create an ordinance which is more lenient than the state statue, you are welcome to do that. You cannot create a stricter ordinance which is what you have right now.

Supervisor Kline: Any questions? Uncertain who the following question came from:

“Do you oppose a group of us getting together and doing research and helping with any of this?” Supervisor Kline: I mentioned this at the last meeting as well. They

have to both, Consumers Energy and the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) are required to hold Public Hearings. Unknown person: “Right” Supervisor

Kline: I think that is the best place to make noise. Jacob: You as citizens can gather on your own and present findings during the Public comments. You are certainly free to do so. Supervisor Kline: I would welcome any information. I already knew about the other townships in the state that have filed for a moratorium. Treasurer Griffith:

We still have not seen anything here, correct? Supervisor Kline: Just a note I had here too under the strict language of the state law passing a moratorium means the state officially views us as not having a compatible ordinance. In plain English, that means a developer can instantly use our moratorium as a reason to bypass us and take their projects straight to the MPSC in Lansing for state approval. Norma: I think what I heard you say is if we are able to do away with state 233. Able to dig out from under the state, then we go back to Mendon Township ordinance and yes, it is stricter

than the state but I think you said you are going to take another look at it in case you regain local control; you will try to work on the ordinance to be less inviting. I think that's what I heard you say. Supervisor Kline: Yes Norma, and I think the numbers of trying to go after the moratorium would make a bigger voice at the state level.

Rusty Baker: Park township did an overlay for their solar. Is that part of what the state can trump too?? That would say where industrial size solar projects were allowed. Can the state trump their overlay district and say we are going to put it here instead of where you want it? Jacob: I don't know the answer to that question. I will follow up on that. I will look into that.

Steve Kline: Mike, I would like to interject in that. I think the more townships that file a moratorium on this and put pressure on the Michigan Supreme Court to overturn this. They are just trying to change your ability to zone stuff. Supervisor Kline: Yes, that is correct.

The minutes of the June 2, 2026 regular meeting of the Mendon Township Board were submitted for consideration. A motion was made by Griffith, supported by Mathews to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Floor Business:

- a. Dale Hutson was absent.
- b. Mike Haydon – zoning administrator. RE: Geraldine Fries property on Silver St. I have provided two (2) different bids for the clean up of this property. At this point I am looking for approval to clean this up. I get phone calls from the neighbors every week. Supervisor Kline: Yes, get a hold of Rusk Excavating. A motion was made by Griffith, supported by Hart to hire Rusk Excavating in the amount of \$3500.00 to clean up this property. Motion carried.
- c. Riverfest advertising request in the amount of \$800.00. A motion was made by Mathews, supported by Griffith to run and ad for the \$800.00 advertising for 2026 River fest. Motion carried.
- d. The August 4, 2026 regular meeting will be changed to Tuesday, August 11, 2026 due to the 2026 Primary Election on August 4th.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

The treasurer's report was submitted for approval. A motion was made by Cupp, supported by Hart to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The June bills were submitted for consideration and approval of payment. A motion was made by Hart supported by Mathews to approve the bills. Motion carried.

Good of the order:

A motion was made by Griffith, supported by Hart to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Cupp